

REMARKS

The office action of April 16, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the disclosure is objected to for not giving a brief description of Fig. 4.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over JP 11-193451.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451 in view of the patent to Huxley.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 11-193451 in view of JP 55-104466.

Finally, it is noted that claims 3-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the disclosure, applicant has added a description of Fig. 4 to the

description of the drawings.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the disclosure is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claim 1.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to JP 11193451, this reference teaches a device for hot dip coating a metal strip. The reference does not disclose a construction having a flow deflection element arranged in the guide channel, as recited in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the above-discussed reference are overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining references, which were cited in various combinations with JP 11193451, have also been considered. None of these references, nor the various combinations made by the Examiner, teach a device for hot dip coating a metal strand, wherein at least one flow deflection element is arranged in the guide channel for the metal strand, as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the various rejections of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

HM-692

Respectfully submitted,

By



Klaus P. Stoffel

Reg. No. 31,668

For: Friedrich Kueffner

Reg. No. 29,482

317 Madison Avenue, Suite 910

New York, New York 10017

(212) 986-3114

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 18, 2008.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

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